CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computerized method for automatically configuring a firewall comprising:

determining a zone for a network address assigned to a network adapter; and

associating a security policy for the zone with the network adapter, the security policy specifying the firewall configuration.

2. The computerized method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining the network address assigned to the network adapter.

3. The computerized method of claim 1, wherein the zone is defined by a set of network addresses.

4. The computerized method of claim 3, wherein the set of network addresses comprises at least one address within the zone.

5. The computerized method of claim 3, wherein the set of network address comprises at least one address outside the zone.

6. The computerized method of claim 1 further comprising:

assigning the security policy to the zone.

7. The computerized method of claim 1 further comprising:

retrieving a policy file that contains definitions for the zone and the security policy and specifies that the security policy is assigned to the zone.

8. The computerized method of claim 7 further comprising:

creating the policy file from data input by a user.

9. The computerized method of claim 7 further comprising:

creating the policy file from data input by an administrator.

10. The computerized method of claim 7 further comprising:

receiving data from a pre-determined location on a network through the network adapter; and

creating the policy file from the data.

11. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions comprising:

determining a zone for a network address assigned to a network adapter; and

associating a security policy for the zone with the network adapter, the security policy specifying the firewall configuration.

12. The computer-readable medium of claim 11 having further computer-readable instructions comprising:

determining the network address assigned to the network adapter.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 11 having further computer-readable instructions comprising:

assigning the security policy to the zone.

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 11 having further computer-readable instructions comprising:

retrieving a policy file that contains definitions for the zone and the security policy and specifies that the security policy is assigned to the zone.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 14 having further computer-readable instructions comprising:

creating the policy file from data input by a user.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 14 having further computer-readable instructions comprising:

creating the policy file from data input by an administrator.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 14 having further computer-readable instructions comprising:

receiving data from a pre-determined location on a network through the network adapter; and

creating the policy file from the data.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 11 having further computer-readable instructions comprising:

defining the zone based on a set of network addresses.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 18 having further computer-readable instructions comprising:

including at least one address within the zone in the set of network addresses.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 18 having further computer-readable instructions comprising:

including at least one address outside the zone in the set of network addresses.

21. A computerized system comprising:

a processing unit;

a memory coupled to the processing unit through bus;

a network adapter coupled to the processing unit through the bus and further operable for coupling to a network; and

a firewall configuration process executed from the memory by the processing unit to cause the processing unit to determine a zone for a network address assigned to the network adapter and to associate a firewall security policy for the zone with the network adapter.

22. The computerized system of claim 21 further comprising a firewall process executed from the memory by the processing unit to cause the processing unit to filter data addressed to the network adapter according to the security policy.

23. The computerized system of claim 21 wherein the firewall configuration process is executed by the processing unit when the network address for the network adapter changes.

24. The computerized system of claim 21 wherein the firewall configuration process further causes the processing unit to determine the network address of the network adapter.

25. The computerized system of claim 21 wherein the firewall configuration process further cause the processing unit to define the zone based on a set of network addresses.

26. The computerized system of claim 25, wherein the set of network addresses comprises at least one address within the zone.

27. The computerized system of claim 25, wherein the set of network addresses comprises at least one address outside the zone.

28. The computerized system of claim 21, wherein the firewall configuration process further cause the processing unit to assign the security policy to the zone.

29. The computerized system of claim 21, wherein the firewall configuration process further cause the processing unit to retrieve a policy file that contains definitions for the zone and the security policy and specifies that the security policy is assigned to the zone.

30. The computerized system of claim 29, wherein the firewall configuration process further cause the processing unit to receive data from a user and to create the policy file from the data.

31. The computerized system of claim 29, wherein the firewall configuration process further cause the processing unit to receive data from an administrator and to create the policy file from the data.

32. The computerized system of claim 29, wherein the firewall configuration process further cause the processing unit to receive data from a pre-determined location on a network through the network adapter and to create the policy file from the data.

33. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon policy file data structure comprising:

a policy identifier field containing data representing an identifier for a security policy;

a protocol identifier field containing data representing an identifier for a protocol associated with the security policy identified in the policy identifier field; and

a protocol element entry containing data representing a protocol element for the protocol identified by the protocol identifier field.

34. The computer-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the protocol element is chosen from the group consisting of ports and services.

35. The computer-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the protocol element entry comprises:

an element identifier field containing data representing an identifier for the protocol element field; and

a settings field containing data representing a filter setting for the protocol element identified by the element identifier field.

36. The computer readable medium of claim 35, wherein the filter setting is chosen from the group consisting of allow, disallow, source address and destination address.

37. The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein the protocol element entry further comprises:

a log indicator field containing data representing an decision on logging data utilizing the protocol element identified by the element identifier field.

38. The computer-readable medium of claim 33 further comprising:

a zone identifier field containing data representing an address zone;

an address parameters field containing data representing a set of network addresses that defines the zone identified by the zone identifier field; and

an assigned policy identifier containing data representing the identifier for the security zone assigned to the zone identified by the zone identifier field.

39. The computer-readable medium of claim 38, wherein the address parameters field contains data representing at least one address within the zone.

40. The computer-readable medium of claim 38, wherein the address parameters field contains data representing at least one address outside the zone.